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Mandatory changes to the scientific names of three Neotropical birds

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Application of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (ICZN 1999) requires changing the specific names for Dusky-billed Parrotlet *Forpus sclateri*, Glittering-bellied Emerald *Chlorostilbon aureoventris* and Guianan Toucanet *Selenidera culik*. Art. 23.9 (Reversal of Precedence) clarifies the proper usage of nomenclature in each of the three cases.

Forpus sclateri

Peters (1937) used *Forpus sclateri* (Gray, 1859, type from the río Javari, Peru) as the oldest available name for Dusky-billed Parrotlet. He also introduced the name *F. s. eidos* as a *nomen novum* for *Psittacula modesta* (Cabanis, 1848, type from British Guiana), which he considered a secondary junior homonym of *Psittacula modesta* (Fraser, 1845). Fraser's name applies to the Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda modesta* of Enggano Island, Sumatra, and Cabanis' *modesta* to the genus *Forpus*, Boie, 1858. Thus, these authors independently applied the name *modesta* to different nominal genera (*Psittacula* Cuvier, 1800 [type: *Psittacus alexandri* Linnaeus] and *Psittacula* Illiger, 1811 [type: *Psittacus passerinus* Linnaeus]), obviating homonymy. Because Cabanis' name has been employed as valid since 1899 (e.g. Ihering & Ihering 1907, Sneath 1914, Cory 1918, Naumburg 1930, Pinto 1938), *Forpus modestus* must be considered the valid name for Dusky-billed Parrotlet, with *sclateri* as a subspecies and *eidos* a synonym.

Chlorostilbon aureoventris

As noted by Steullet & Deautier (1946) and Mallet-Rodrigues (2005), Shaw (1812) described *Trochilus lucidus* based on material described informally (not under the

Linnean classification system) by Félix de Azara (1802–05) as the ‘Pica-flor mas bello’ (no. 293) from Paraguay. Because Shaw’s name has been used as valid since 1899 (e.g. Olrog 1963, Cuello 1985), *Chlorostilbon lucidus* must be considered the valid name for Glittering-bellied Emerald. The history of Shaw’s name may explain in part the late recognition of its correct application. Despite that the Spanish naturalist Azara described only birds occurring in Paraguay and the region of the río de La Plata, where he lived for 20 years (Beddall 1983), Hartert (1892) placed *T. lucidus* Shaw in the synonymy of *Hylocharis (Basilinna) leucotis* (Vieillot) of Middle and North America. The name *aureoventris* (d’Orbigny & Lafresnaye 1838), type from ‘Moxos and Cochabamba, Bolivia,’ but considered by all recent authors to range throughout Paraguay, is a synonym.

Selenidera culik

Peters (1948) used the name *Selenidera culik* (Wagler 1827) stating that the older name *Ramphastos piperivorus* (Linnaeus) is ‘not identifiable’ (footnote p.79). Hellmayr (1907) had pointed out that Linnaeus’ original description (1758) and subsequent reference to the name (1764) did not provide sufficient detail to define the species in question. Linnaeus (1766) did, however, provide a diagnostic description with direct reference to *Tucana cajanensis torquata* of Brisson (1760, p.429, pl. 32, fig. 2) and ‘The Green Toucan’ of Edwards (1764, p.255, pl. 330). *Selenidera piperivora* (Linnaeus, 1766) was used by Ihering & Ihering (1907), Hellmayr (1907), Pinto (1938) and Schubart *et al.* (1965), and must be considered the valid name for Guianan Toucanet, with *culik* a synonym. Most recently, Alvarenga (2004) correctly applied the name.

The two most recent editions of the ICZN (1985, 1999) provide different definitions for *nomina oblita* (‘forgotten names’). The current edition specifies that the term applies only to available names ‘unused since 1899’ up to 1 January 2000, whereas the earlier edition specified that an available name must have remained unused for more than 50 years. This change is likely to affect other ‘forgotten names’ and should be kept in mind as taxonomists strive to maintain the proper nomenclature for birds and other organisms.

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